

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6077

INFO US MISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 432

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1399

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5059

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

SUBJECT: PRESS ON RHODESIA NOV 5,6

SUMMARY: VARIOUS PAPERS REPORTED GENEVA CONFERENCE DEADLOCKED ON TIME SCALE FOR TRANSFER TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE. OTHERWISE, LITTLE REPORTING OR EDITORIAL COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH PAPER "THE CITIZEN" NOV 6 REPORTED SMITH SAYING IN SALISBURY HE HAD NOT "WALKED OUT" OF CONFERENCE. SMITH QUOTED SAYING HE FAVORED MUZOREWA DELEGATION BECAUSE "THEY WERE THE MOST RESPONSIBLE AND PROBABLY THE BEST BEHAVED ... AND I THINK IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED HERE IN RHODESIA THAT THE MUZOREWA FACTION REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF BLACK RHODESIANS." SMITH SAID IF TALKS BROKE DOWN HE WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH BLACK LEADERS INSIDE RHODESIA, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ON BASIS OF CURRENT PROPOSALS.

2. SAME PAPER QUOTED SITHOLE SAYING CONFERENCE "HAS NOT MADE MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRESS - MR VAN DER BYL IS IN THE WAY."

3. REPORT IN JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BEELD" NOV 6 SAID SMITH, WHEN ASKED IF HE STILL CONTEMPLATED BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN TWO YEARS, RESPONDED IT WOULD " DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES."

4. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT, JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE VADERLAND" EXPRESSED COMMONLY-HELD VIEW OF PROBABLY MOST WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS: "RIGHT OR WRONG, BLACK IS RIGHT - THAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL CREDO AS FAR AS AFRICA IS CONCERNED. NORMAL STANDARDS ARE DISREGARDED WHEN IT COMES TO WORLD OPINION ON BLACK AND WHITE IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, A NEW REALISM IS DISCERNIBLE IN RESPECT OF RHODESIA AND RSA. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE, FOR IT HAS SHOWN EUROPEANS HOW DIFFICULT IT OFTEN IS TO NEGOTIATE REASONABLE WITH SOME BLACK LEADERS. THE BLACK LEADERS THERE ARE ALIENATING EUROPEAN SYMPATHY FOR THEIR CAUSE ... IT WOULD BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TO THINK IN TERMS OF A SUDDEN RUSH OF SYMPATHY FOR THE WHITE MAN IN AFRICA. THE REVERSE WILL LONG REMAIN THE NORM. BUT THERE ARE SIGNS THE USA AND THE WEST GENERALLY ARE LOOKING AT BLACK AFRICA AND ITS LEADERS MOR REALISTICALLY." HUGHES

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